

Amendments to the Claims

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1. (Currently Amended) In a computer system having a laboratory information system application program, an operating system and a printer driver, a method for formatting data from a group of laboratory instruments, the method comprising:

- obtaining data indicative of outputs of the group of laboratory instruments by the laboratory information system application program;
- transferring the data, ~~by~~ from the laboratory information system application program, to an operating system for printing;
- transferring the data, by the operating system, to the printer driver;
- formatting ~~of~~ the data, by the printer driver, into a format required by an external monitoring facility; and
- storing the formatted data in a file for extraction by the external monitoring facility.

2. (Currently Amended) In a computer system having a laboratory information system application program, an operating system, a printer driver and a port monitor, a method for formatting data from a group of laboratory instruments, the method comprising:

- obtaining data indicative of outputs of the group of laboratory instruments by the laboratory information system application program;
- transferring the data, by the laboratory information system application program, to an operating system for printing;
- transferring the data, ~~by~~ from the operating system, to the printer driver;
- transferring the data, ~~by~~ from the printer driver, to the port monitor;

formatting of the data, by the port monitor, into a format required by an external monitoring facility; and

storing the formatted data in a file for extraction by the external monitoring facility.

a<sup>1</sup> 3. (Original) A system for formatting laboratory instrument output data, the system comprising:

a laboratory information system application program for receiving data outputs from one or more laboratory instruments;

an operating system operable to run the laboratory information system application program and to provide centralized printing; and

a printer driver for receiving the data to be printed out and formatting the data according to a predetermined format.

4. (Original) A system for formatting laboratory instrument output data, the system comprising:

a laboratory information system application program for receiving data outputs from one or more laboratory instruments;

an operating system operable to run the laboratory information system application program and to provide centralized printing; and

a port monitor for receiving data to be printed and formatting the data according to a predetermined format.